

### **REMARKS**

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed December 24, 2008, prior to preparing this response. Currently, claims 1, 5-16, 20, 24-38 and 45 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1, 5-16 and 36 have been allowed and claims 20, 24-35, 38 and 45 have been rejected. Claims 20, 24-35, 38 and 45 have been canceled with this paper. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 5-16 and 36 are allowable.

#### ***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 20, 24, 25, 38 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,368,049) in view of Schroepel (U.S. Patent No. 6,024,764). Claims 26-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,368,049) in view of Schroepel (U.S. Patent No. 6,024,764), and further in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,485,458). While Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection, in the interest of furthering prosecution in a timely manner, claims 20, 24-35, 38 and 45 have been canceled without prejudice.

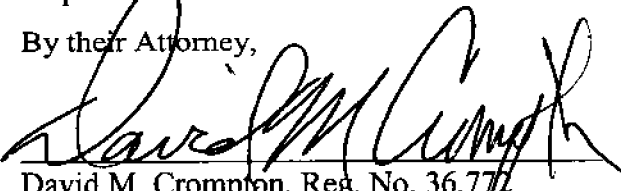
Reconsideration and further examination of the rejections are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Griffin et al.

By their Attorney,

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